

West Oxford Wildlife Group

Butterfly Surveys 2003

Three surveys were held during 2003, on 25 May, 20 July and 17 August. Each took the form of a walk along a pre-specified route around West Oxford and noting which butterfly species were seen in each section.

The route for each survey was: West Oxford Community Centre – Ferry Hinksey Road – Willow Walk – King George’s Field – Willow Walk – North Hinksey Meadow – Seacourt Nature Park.

The species seen in each section of the route are listed below. In each case it is also noted on which survey the sighting was made (5, 7 and 8 indicating May, July and August respectively).

Species		WOCC & environs	Ferry Hinksey Road	Willow Walk	King George’s Field	North Hinksey Meadow	Seacourt Nature Park
Scientific name	Common name						
Family Pieridae							
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large white	7	7, 8	7, 8	7, 8	7, 8	7, 8
<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Small white			8			7, 8
<i>Artogeia napi</i>	Green-veined white			7			
Family Lycaenidae							
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small copper					7	
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Common blue			8		7	8
Family Nymphalidae							
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock					5	7
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Red admiral	7				7	7, 8
<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Painted lady						7
<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Small tortoiseshell					5 ¹	7, 8
<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	Comma			7	7	7	7, 8
Family Satyridae							
<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	Meadow brown			7	7, 8	7, 8	8
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet					7	
<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	Gatekeeper			7		7	7
<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Speckled wood			7, 8	7		
Family Hesperidae							
<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	Essex skipper					7	
<i>Thymelicus flavus</i>	Small skipper					7	
<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	Large skipper					7	7

¹ Caterpillars

Weather

The weather was poor for the May survey, a heavy shower having taken place immediately before the survey, and this explains the low species count on that occasion. It was warm and sunny for the July survey, and partly cloudy with brief sunny spells for the August survey.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Caroline Steel for her leadership of the surveys and for training members of West Oxford Wildlife Group in butterfly identification.